

Widening net of PF

1318. SHRIMATI JAYPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to widen the net of Provident Fund by lowering the PF deduction threshold from units employing 20 persons to 10 persons;

(b) whether PF deductions are being made mandatory for employees earning up Rs. 6,500/- per month against Rs. 5000/- per month now;

(c) whether certain changes are contemplated in regard to investments of Provident Funds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) to (d) Wage ceiling for coverage under the Employees' Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 has been enhanced from Rs. 5000⁷- per month to Rs. 6,500⁷- per month with effect from 1.6.2001. At present, there is no proposal under consideration for changing the pattern of investment.

Memorandum by Employees PF Pensioners Union, Kerala

1319. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: "

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Employees Provident Fund Pensioners Union, Kerala has submitted a memorandum regarding revision of pension and some other demands of the pensioners; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Association has demanded that the pensioner be paid either half the amount of the salary or Rs. 2500⁷- at the time of

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retirement, periodic DA increase based on the cost of living indices as applied in the case of industrial workers, the total service put in by the pensioner as well as the last salary drawn be taken into consideration for fixation of pensionary benefits, one month's pension be paid as medical allowance every year and payment of festival allowance.

Minimum pension depends on solvency of the fund and actuarial calculation. Any increase in the minimum pension is linked with the results of the annual valuation of the Pension Fund.

Pension under the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 is not linked with dearness allowance based on cost of living index. However, there is a provision in the Employees Pension Scheme, 1995 for annual valuation of the Employees Pension Fund. In the last 3 valuations for the period 16.11.1995 to 15.11.1996, 16.11.1996 to 31.3.1998 and 1.4.1998 to 31.3.1999 relief has been granted at the rate of 4%, 5.5% and 4% respectively.

The total membership period under Employees' Family Pension Scheme, 1971 as well as Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 are considered for the eligibility period for pensionary benefits under the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995. The amount of pension is the aggregate of pension calculated on account of past service and the pensionable service.

There is no provision in the Employees' Pension Scheme to grant festival allowance and medical allowance.

Recruitment of child labourers in RML Hospital

1320. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some child labourers were recruited in the RML Hospital, New Delhi in recent past;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for violating the accepted norms in a classified Government Hospital;

(c) what actions have been taken against the persons responsible for the same; and